

Health Risk Behaviors Among High School-Aged Youth
National and Montana Comparisons of Selected Elements
*(with Non-random Data** for Montana Respondents who Self-Identified as Students With Disabilities*)*

Sources: 2003 U.S. and 2005 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (OPI)

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2005 (SWD**)***		Montana 2005 High School		U.S. 2003 High School
Carried a weapon in the past 30 days	31.3		21.4		17.1
Carried a gun in the past 30 days	15.9		9.0		6.1
Carried a weapon on school property in the past 30 days	16.4		10.2		6.1
Did not go to school in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe	9.0		4.2		5.4
Were in a physical fight in the past 12 months	42.7		30.5		33.0
Actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months	19.0		10.3		8.5
Ever smoked a cigarette (lifetime use)	67.1		55.4		58.4
Are "current" smokers (smoked on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	37.0		20.1		21.9
Ever smoked daily (at least 1 cigarette every day for 30 days)	29.2		15.2		15.8
Are "frequent" smokers (smoked on 20 or more of the previous 30 days)	16.7		8.8		9.7
Are "current" smokeless tobacco users (used chew or smokeless tobacco on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	21.1		14.8		6.7
Ever had consumed alcohol (lifetime alcohol use)	78.7		77.8		74.9
Are "current" alcohol users (drank alcohol on 1 or more of the previous 30 days)	52.1		48.6		44.9
"Binge" drink (episodic heavy drinking, consuming 5 or more drinks at one occasion in the previous 30 days)	39.3		34.4		28.3
Ever used marijuana (lifetime marijuana use)	45.5		41.7		40.2

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data (percent of students who)	Montana 2005 (SWD*)**		Montana 2005 High School		U.S. 2003 High School
Are “current” marijuana users (used marijuana 1 or more times in the previous 30 days)	27.8		22.3		22.4
Ever used inhalants (lifetime inhalant use)	20.1		15.4		12.1
Ever used methamphetamines (lifetime use)	11.5		8.3		7.6
Ever had sexual intercourse	53.6		43.6		46.7
Are currently sexually active (had sexual intercourse in the past 3 months)	36.3		31.2		34.3
Of those who ever had sex, the percent who used alcohol or drugs before last sexual intercourse	38.6		29.4		25.4
Are attempting to lose weight	45.7		42.6		43.8
Participated in vigorous physical activity (3+ days in past 7)	58.2		65.0		62.6
Watch 3 or more hours of TV on a school night	32.4		26.3		38.2
Used alcohol before age 13	38.7		27.8		27.8
Smoked a cigarette before age 13	31.7		17.6		18.3
Tried marijuana before age 13	18.4		11.2		9.9
Had sexual intercourse before age 13	11.6		5.1		7.4

yrbs/comparison students with disabilities

* Students With Disabilities are the 1,244 Montana high school students who answered ‘yes’ to the question “During the past 12 months, did you receive help from a resource teacher, speech therapist or other special education teacher?”

** These data represent the respondents only; it would not be valid to generalize these findings to all students with disabilities in Montana.